

Claims

1. A method for inclusion of information regarding medical samples into a medical information manager system, the method comprising:

- 5 A) Initiating an electronic session on a medical information manager device associated with the medical information manager system regarding an interaction between a health care provider and a particular patient;
- B) Use an input device associated with the medical information manager system to read into the medical information manager device the machine-
10 readable attributes of a specific sample of a particular product to be provided to the patient;
- C) Associate the machine readable attributes of the specific sample with a set of the particular patient's health records stored in the medical information manager system, the machine-readable attributes including a standard
15 identification code for a particular product corresponding to the specific sample;
- D) Use the machine-readable attributes of the specific sample to partially populate an electronic prescription form for the particular product matching the specific sample; and
- 20 E) Receive input through an input device connected to the medical information manager device from the health care provider to complete the partially populated prescription form.

25 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the machine-readable attributes of a specific sample include a lot number for the specific sample and wherein a record of the provision of this specific sample is stored for use in a program for tracking of samples.

30 3. The method of claim 1 further wherein the machine-readable attributes of a specific sample are read by reading a communication media selected from the group consisting of barcodes, magnetic strips, radio frequency broadcast, infra red transmission, and characters suitable for optical character recognition.

4. The method of claim 1 further wherein the machine-readable attributes of a specific sample are read by reading a machine-readable media on the container which holds packages of the specific samples.

5 5. The method of claim 1 further wherein the machine-readable attributes of a specific sample are read by reading a machine-readable media on the exterior packaging of the specific sample.

6. The method of claim 1 further wherein the machine-readable attributes of a
10 specific sample are read by reading a barcode on the particular product in the specific sample.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein the health care provider inputs by reader
associated with the medical information manger system a code indicating that the
15 particular patient is to receive a medical order for medical services selected from the group consisting of laboratory tests, radiology tests, consults, medical procedures, follow-up appointments, and exercise programs.